

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of September 14, 2014

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Matthew 4:18-22	Tuesday	John 1:35-42	Wednesday	John 1:43-47
Thursday	Acts 10	Friday	Acts 11	Saturday	Acts 15

*My notes on this week's readings...*

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Invest in Relationships*

**Next week's readings:** :Luke 13:10-17

Jesus makes people family. In this story Jesus welcomes and dignifies a hurting woman with a title never used before in the whole Bible, "daughter of Abraham." She belonged in the family. As we become a people disciplined to Jesus, reflecting the heart of the Father, we too will invest in the relationships that make God's family strong. Join us next week to learn more.

first lutheran church

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# Group Discussion

Connect

Have you ever received a particularly fun or exciting invitation? What was it?

Learn

Read Matthew 4:18-20. Jesus invited these guys to “Come, follow me...” If you’re part of a community group, reading the Bible, chances are someone has “invited” you to life with Jesus, somehow, somewhere along the way. Who would you say has been an “inviter” to Jesus in your life and how did that invitation happen?

Read John 1:35-47. Notice that Philip’s “Come and see” invitation in v. 46 is just what he had already heard from Jesus himself in v. 39.

- What difference does it make that Jesus is the first inviter?
- When Philip says “come and see” he is simply pointing to something outside himself that he himself has experienced. His invitation to Jesus is more like a witness saying what he saw than an attorney making a persuasive argument. Which of these postures (witness or attorney) resonates more naturally when you imagine yourself as an inviter?

God surprised the earliest Christians, almost all of whom were Jewish, by expanding the invitation to Christ to include even Gentiles and foreigners. This was shocking to most of them. Acts 15 includes a story about the early Christian leaders meeting to decide how to welcome these newly invited. Read Acts 15:19 to see a summary of the response of James, the brother of Jesus and leader among the apostles.

- What do you think Christians do today that makes it hard for people who are turning to God?
- What comes to mind for you that we should consider to make it easier for people to respond to God’s invitation?

Apply

All of our inviting is really just cooperating with the inviting that God already wants to do. The first step to applying this step in our lives is to pray. As a group, pray today to ask who God wants to work through you to invite to their next steps with Jesus.

Pray

Who do you feel led to share a “come and see” kind of invitation with? Depending on their circumstances, the invitation might be very different. Perhaps they’re ready for an invitation to your church. Perhaps they’re just ready for a gesture of friendship first, an invitation to your life.